

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511
 Room 300, Erb Memorial Union
 P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
 E-mail: editor@dailyemerald.com
 Online Edition:
 www.dailyemerald.com

COMMENTARY

Editor in Chief:
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 Julie Lauderbaugh
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Editorial

Audit was a good move

Congratulations are in order to Athletic Director Bill Moos and the University Athletic Department for undergoing an audit at time when department spending has come under scrutiny.

In light of the recent financial investigation into charges that coach Rick Gamez misappropriated \$5,748.64 from the women's softball team travel funds, the decision to ask the Oregon University System to audit the entire department makes the trustworthiness of Moos' employees questionable.

Moos told the Emerald he is not confident that all fraudulent abuses of athletic travel funds have been detected. If the Athletic Department head is forced to request an audit from an outside source because he cannot trust his own staff, how can students or athletes trust these people to manage money?

Obviously, Moos is practicing good public relations by being honest about his department's potential shortcomings. In the midst of a phenomenal football season, any other college might be wont to hide discrepancies in their athletic travel budgets. But as the University moves into the top tier of athletic success, we must be careful not to embarrass ourselves when all eyes are on the Ducks.

In college athletics, there has always been "wiggle room" for coaches to fudge their accounting records. But just because the opportunity is there doesn't mean that coaches should abuse their authority. A new system of checks and balances may need to be incorporated into the department's current system, depending on the results of the OUS audit.

For the University's sake, we hope that the audit does not find any more discrepancies within Moos' department. After all, in the wake of the embarrassment from misappropriated donations found in academic departments during the state's summer audit, the integrity of the University as a whole is on the line.

EDITORIAL POLICY

These editorials represent the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com.

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Please include contact information. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

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Reality is harsh and often cold. We examine its rough texture a little closer in college, peering into the empty hallways. And sometimes it's arduous and pulls at your mind with tiny claws. You begin to understand how a fish feels out of water, with its head chopped off. Vulnerable and entrapped, the psyche is calling from within, saying, "Let me escape." But how can we? How can we escape? Is there

really a way to forget about life's endless problems? Some people may tell you that they've found the way. They have found

what finally makes them feel good. Unfortunately, what many turn to is drugs, and if you're in Eugene, it's probably marijuana. I'm sure you've smelled sweet "Mary Jane" or seen "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" at some point in time, and if not, it's likely that you will.

Some day in the future someone may invite you to inhale that famous green weed. They'll say something like, "Hey, it's only a plant man. You know, Indians smoked this stuff in peace circles. Just relax." Yes, I've heard everything in the book, from the idea of becoming more spiritual to the enhancement of the senses. And admittedly, it does sound appealing.

It's quite a temptation — fi-

There's no hope with dope



Peter Utsey Emerald



Tara Debenham
Columnist

nally you can block out everything that is crowding your mind and be, in Pink Floyd's words, "Comfortably Numb." But if the experience turns out to be good, then you'll probably want to feel that way again, and then what is to prevent you from doing it again?

And if you're always high, where are you really? Who are you? When there's so little you can control in life, at least you can usually control yourself. Nobody wants to be told what to do, but when you're on drugs, the drugs are telling your brain what to do or what not to do. The drugs are telling you how you feel, making you laugh, making you see things. It's not yourself. It's not real. If it was real, you wouldn't need a substance to get the feelings again.

My personal experience

with people who use marijuana heavily has been this: They seem to have little motivation or desire to do much of anything. The drug is everything. As a result, their education begins to suffer, and they're usually out of shape. It also gives people the "munchies," which I've been told makes you usually crave unhealthy or greasy food. So, it's quite likely you'll gain weight. Also, I've heard the drug hinders short term memory and makes coordination difficult, increasing car accidents. The National Institute on Drug Abuse says, "Someone who smokes five joints per week may be taking in as many cancer-causing chemicals as someone who smokes a full pack of cigarettes every day."

With the recent terrorist attacks on our country, this should

be a time of support and patriotism. Marijuana and drug trafficking are tied to organizations such as the Taliban, so drug-users are indirectly supporting these organizations. Besides all this — as if it weren't enough — we're poor college students, and drugs are expensive! Instead of spending 50 bucks to get high and just sit around and stare at things, go to a concert or on a road trip. Try something new.

There's so much more to experience in the world that doesn't involve the risks you will encounter when you take marijuana or any other kind of drug. Personally, I've got better things to do than "Puff the Magic Dragon."

Tara Debenham is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. Her opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald. She can be reached at taradebenham@dailyemerald.com.

Poll Results:

Every week, the Emerald prints the results of our online poll and the poll question for next week. The poll can be accessed from the main page of our Web site, www.dailyemerald.com. We encourage you to send us feedback about the poll questions and results.

Last week's poll question: What anniversary is the University celebrating this year?

Results: 136 total votes
 10 — 5.2 percent, or 7 votes
 125 — 79.4 percent, or 108 votes
 150 — 11.8 percent, or 16 votes

200 — 0.7 percent, or 1 vote
 Don't know — 3.0 percent, or 4 votes

Wow, 135 votes (and most of them correct) on our easiest question so far. Those signs all over campus must be sinking into students' subconscious.

This week's poll question: What would you add to the ASUO Street Fair?

The choices:
 Minstrels, mimes and jugglers
 Meals under \$5
 Beer garden
 Karaoke
 Evil clowns on stilts
 Toby's Tofu Palace
 Don't know

Weigh in on the full-page ad debate

From the editors

Some readers may note the full-page advertisement in today's Emerald regarding the U.S. military response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The ad sparked controversy when it recently appeared in other college campus newspapers across the nation.

As with other potentially offensive ads that are submitted for publication in the Emerald, there was concern over whether it would needlessly offend a significant portion of our readers. Before making the decision about whether a potentially offensive ad will run in the paper, our advertising director will often

gather input from staff members in the news, production and advertising departments.

The general consensus about today's ad was that the opinions expressed in it deal with a political issue that is being discussed and debated around the country in the wake of the attacks, and that it should not be necessary on a college campus to censor political speech from our readers.

We invite the campus community to debate the issues raised by the ad's content. Readers can write letters to the editor or guest columns that meet our standard guidelines, and either drop them off in our office in Suite 300 of the EMU or e-mail them to letters@dailyemerald.com. We will attempt to run all opinion pieces we receive regarding this issue.